

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: February 9, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on February 2, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Judge Enters Consent Decree (Third and Final Settlement), Organic Chemicals, Inc., Superfund Site, Grandville, Michigan

On February 1, 2001, the judge signed the Consent Decree and entered it as a final judgment for the Organic Chemicals, Inc. (OCI) Superfund site in Grandville, Michigan. Under the Consent Decree, the settling defendant (TPI Petroleum) will perform the soil remedy for the site, and pay the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) its costs in overseeing the cleanup. TPI Petroleum must also reimburse the U.S. EPA Superfund \$674,431 in past costs, plus pay interest on that amount since the June 30, 1998, demand, which is approximately an additional \$93,632 for a total of \$768,063. With this, the third and final settlement stemming from the June 30, 1998, special notice and demand letter, U.S. EPA has recapped the full amount of its original demand of \$4.189 million, plus almost \$500,000 in interest.

Extensive releases of hazardous substances to the soil and groundwater occurred at the site from OCI's solvent reclamation and chemical manufacturing operations, chemical spills, and fires, as well as earlier petroleum refining operations. There have been 2 Record of Decisions (RODs) for the site: an interim ROD for groundwater pump and treat of volatile organic chemical (VOC) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC) contaminated

groundwater, and a final ROD for groundwater and soil remediation.

Contacts: Jerome P. Kujawa (312-886-6731)
Thomas G. Williams (312-886-6157)

**Potentially Responsible Party Files (Chapter 11 Bankruptcy),
J & L Landfill Superfund Site, Rochester Hills, Michigan**

On December 29, 2000, LTV Steel Company, Inc., the private party responsible for payment of the remedy at the J & L Landfill Superfund site in Rochester Hills, Michigan, filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. The contractor representing LTV Steel Company and U.S. EPA legal counsel are working with LTV, to minimize any impact the bankruptcy filing has on the ongoing operation & maintenance program at J & L Landfill.

The J & L Landfill site remedy includes a constructed multi-layer Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste cap, and operation & maintenance monitoring. The property was previously used for sand and gravel mining before becoming a landfill and a Superfund site.

Contact: Jeff Gore (312-886-6552)

**Public Meetings (Proposed Superfund National Priorities List
Addition), Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront Site, Ashland,
Wisconsin**

On January 11, 2001, representatives from U.S. EPA joined the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) staff in presenting an update on the cleanup of the Ashland/Northern States Power Lakefront site, Ashland, Wisconsin, located on Chequamegon Bay, Lake Superior. U.S. EPA explained the public comment procedures on the proposed listing of the site on the Superfund National Priorities List, announced the availability of a Technical Assistance Grant, and briefly described the Superfund cleanup process. The majority of questions concerned interim cleanup actions to be initiated this month by WDNR and health risks to workers possibly exposed during the former coal gasification plant operations.

Contacts: Bri Bill (312-353-6646)
Jon Peterson (312-353-1264)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

New Environmental Services Assistance Team (ESAT) Contract, Chicago, Illinois

On February 1, 2001, a new Environmental Services Assistance Team (ESAT) contract for onsite Superfund analytical support was awarded to IIT Research Institute (IITRI) and work was started on the contract. This contract is for organic and inorganic analyses, data validation support, and field analyses, including use of a mobile laboratory. Some other programs may also buy into this contract.

Contact: Jay Thakkar (312-886-1972)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

State End-of-Year Meetings, Chicago, Illinois

On January 30, 2001, the Superfund Program held an end-of-year meeting with all the Region 5 States. Some of the topics included current Superfund budget updates, state of the program, year in review for Region 5 and each State, new initiatives, a core funding update, and Superfund coordination with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST), and water issues. Individual meetings or conference calls were also held with each State to discuss State-specific accomplishments and issues.

Contact: Craig Mankowski (312-886-9493)

Illinois State Emergency Response Commission Advisory Board Meeting

On January 24, 2001, Cheryl McIntyre, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), attended the Illinois State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) Advisory Board meeting. Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce Environmental Research Group, Department of Public Health, and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) were present. The SERC identified their priorities for calendar year 2001. The SERC will focus on reviewing the emergency plans of several Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) throughout the State. Plans were prioritized based on population density, industrial activity and/or release history in the planning area. Activation of new LEPCs has been put on hold until further notice, while efforts to consolidate rural LEPCs will continue.

Other SERC priorities include: reviewing statewide pipeline systems, insuring emergency plans in earthquake-prone Counties address chemical storage tank risks, and developing an on-line Tier II reporting program.

Contact: Cheryl McIntyre (312-886-1964)

Waukegan Community Activity Group Meeting, Waukegan, Illinois

On January 18, 2001, several members of the Community Involvement Section in the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) attended the 112th meeting of the Waukegan Community Activity Group (CAG). Those in attendance represented major stakeholders, private enterprises, environmental and civic groups, plus agencies of the State, County and Municipal governments. Many CAG members were disturbed about recent negative press coverage about elevated polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) levels in Waukegan Harbor carp tested by the State of Illinois. OPA will continue to work with the CAG to improve its press relations.

Contacts: Mike Joyce (312-353-5546)
Leo Rosales (312-353-6198)
Mick Hans (312-353-5050)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers